

ITI/US Acquires Latin American Theatre Collection

The International Theatre Institute of the United States (ITI/US) announces the availability of its Library's recent acquisition: Theatre of Latin America Collection. The TOLA Collection consists of 2,650 items documenting modern theatre in 20 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. A grant of \$23,280 from the Ford Foundation supported the six-month process of cataloguing and housing 466 books; 1,277 plays (including 455 manuscripts); 153 issues of a wide range of periodicals; 307 programs or playbills; 147 photographs; 300 clippings, pamphlets, monographs, and brochures.

Many of the volumes and manuscripts are one-of-a-kind; some are no longer in print even in the country of publication. This valuable material, most of which is not accessible anywhere else in this country, was collected by Joanne Pottlitzer while she was director of Theatre of Latin America, Inc. (TOLA), from 1966-1980. The Collection was donated to ITI/US by the Americas Society, Inc. where it was housed and augmented until 1986.

With the acquisition of the TOLA Collection, the ITI/US Library has greatly expanded its holdings on Latin American theatre. In the Library's international play section (11,000 plays from 92 countries), the number of scripts from Latin America and the Caribbean has quadrupled, reaching a total of 1,774 plays from 25 countries. The books and other materials in the TOLA Collection (catalogued and housed by country of origin in a second section of the Library) cover theory and criticism, history, dramaturgy, theatrical forms, popular entertainment, productions. Photographs, playbills, brochures and reviews document the work of 245 performing arts companies.

The International Theatre Institute, founded in 1948, is a worldwide communications network serving the professional needs of theatre practitioners and institutions. ITI/US is one of 75 national centers established to promote and facilitate the international exchange of people, information, and practices in the theatre arts. Included in the ITI/US program are the Visitor Service, International Exchange Service, Consultation Service, and the Library and Information Service.

Recognizing a need for the systematic collection and dissemination of information on contemporary theatre abroad, ITI/US established a reference Library devoted to international theatre since 1945. Opened to the public in 1970, the Library now houses, in addition to the play collection, 5,100 volumes, 11,000 programs/playbills, and 250 periodicals on the performing arts around the world. The theatre of 145 countries on five continents is documented not only by plays, books, and periodicals, but also by directories, newsletters, press releases, production schedules, monographs, pamphlets, yearbooks, reviews and clippings. ITI/US is happy to share with researchers in the United States the wealth of the Theatre of Latin America Collection.